

CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS RELATING
TO COMMUNIST MENACE
1946 - 1948

January 26, 1946 - Presidential directive "Coordination of Federal Foreign Intelligence Activities" issued, establishing old CIG.

February 9, 1946 - Joseph Stalin delivered a major address, blaming capitalism for all the world's troubles and exhorting his people to prepare for new crises; in effect, this speech constituted an open declaration of the cold war.

March 5, 1946 - Winston Churchill delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, warning of a "shadow which . . . falls upon the world".

September 6, 1946 - Secretary of State James Byrnes spoke in Stuttgart, Germany, warning of problems arising from Russian intransigence in the occupation of that country.

1946 - Communist-led guerilla activity, supported from neighboring Yugoslavia, Albania, and Bulgaria, increased in tempo and, until 1948, threatened takeover of the Greek Government.

Late 1946 - American economic mission appointed to assist Greece in rehabilitating its economy and maintaining its national independence.

January 1947 - United States protested undemocratic procedures of Polish provisional government on grounds they would prevent forthcoming elections from being truly free.

January 25, 1947 - French Government representatives in Saigon charged that Ho Chi Minh's government was patterned on communism and that the struggle in Vietnam was one between Western democracy and Marxism.

March 12, 1947 - Truman Doctrine enunciated to Congress by President Truman.

June 5, 1947 - Secretary of State Marshall in speech at Harvard proposed what subsequently became the Marshall Plan.

July 1947 - The famous article "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" appeared in Foreign Affairs quarterly, advocating a United States policy of containment of communism; this article, although signed "Mr. X", was in fact written by George Kennan.

July 26, 1947 - The National Security Act, Public Law 253, 80th Congress, approved, establishing, among other things, the National Security Council, the Department of Defense, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

December 19, 1947 - National Security Council approved NSC-4, "Coordination of Foreign Information Matters", for coordination of overt propaganda, and NSC-4-A, directing the Director of Central Intelligence to undertake limited covert activity. (Under this authority, the old Special Projects Group of OSO was set up under Mr. Thomas Cassidy, but its activities as a Group had achieved nothing of significance at the time it was superseded by OPC.)

February 20-25, 1948 - By coup d'etat, the communists took over effective control of Czechoslovakia.

April 1948 - Economic Cooperation Administration established by Congress.

April 18, 1948 - The Moderate Christian Democrats won the Italian elections but only after a hard-fought battle with the communist-led leftist opposition; not resigning themselves to defeat, the communists continued to sabotage the government's recovery effort by strikes and other agitation.

June 18, 1948 - National Security Council approved NSC 10/2, canceling NSC-4-A and establishing the basic policy and organization for post-war covert and clandestine activities.

June 28, 1948 - The Cominform's excommunication and denunciation of Tito was made public, Yugoslavia split from the Bloc and the Greek guerilla war was thereby assisted to a successful conclusion.

September 1948 - By authorization of NSC 10/2, OPC was established in CIA.

November 3, 1948 - National Security Council approved NSC 20/4, explicitly recognizing Soviet threats to American security and proposing a number of American objectives to counter these threats.